

December 31, 2001

*Attorney General John Ashcroft
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530*

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

There are a great many important issues that we as Americans and our nation's leadership are dealing with today that are virtually unprecedented. As time moves on toward the new year, we are all struggling with issues of our national economy, our national security, and our ability to emerge from a slight economic downturn.

With all of these critically important tasks, I am hoping that we do not unnecessarily slow ourselves down with the playthings of yesterday, such as this ill-advised lawsuit against Microsoft. There is, I believe, an excellent settlement at hand, and it would benefit us all for this settlement to be accepted, with no further action against Microsoft.

Microsoft did employ aggressive tactics at protecting both its position as a technology leader, as well as its proprietary Windows coding, but this only makes good business sense, despite the fact that Microsoft's competitors may have sobbed for their relative lack of similar innovative leadership. Blaming Microsoft for these shortcomings is a bit excessive; convincing the federal government to institute a federal lawsuit is just plain vengeful. Let's be done with this. Let's move on. Let's accept the settlement and hope that we can all play better together.

Sincerely,



*Eric Speer
President
917-576-1537*